# Amendments to the Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently amended) A method of generating nanoparticles of gold, silver or platinum group metals; the method comprising the steps of:
   (a) adsorbing dissolved species of gold, silver or platinum group metals onto an [[absorbent]] adsorbent, thereby producing a loaded adsorbent;
   (b) ashing the loaded [[absorbent]] adsorbent to produce ashes; and
   (c) removing impurities from the said ashes.
2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said dissolved species include complexes of cyanide, chloride and thiourea.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said [[absorbent]] adsorbent [[includes]] is selected from the group consisting of activated carbon and resin.

## REFERENCES

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